

growth and development of the attractions industry.

Mr. Knoebel's parents founded Knoebel's Amusement Park in Elysburg, Pennsylvania in 1926, and as a result, he grew up surrounded by the attractions industry. As an adult, Mr. Knoebel pursued his passion for amusement parks, becoming president of the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks Association in 1971. In 1984, he was a key player in the development and adoption of the Pennsylvania Ride Inspection Act.

Since 1988, Mr. Knoebel has served as the president of the family business. In this role, he has shown a strong dedication to preserving and restoring vintage rides including "The Phoenix" roller coaster from Texas and "The Twister" from Colorado, both of which currently operate at Knoebel's. He has also constructed first-of-their-kind attractions such as a flume ride with wood supports and the "Flying Turns," the only wooden bobsled-style roller coaster in existence which was modeled after a ride from the 1930s. Mr. Knoebel has been an active IAAPA volunteer and has made many significant contributions to the organization, including serving as a member of the Board of Directors from 1999 to 2002.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Dick Knoebel's induction into the IAAPA Hall of Fame, I commend him and thank him for all of his hard work and lasting contributions to the attractions industry, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

SUPPORTING SECTION 206 OF H.R.
647, THE ABLE ACT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to advocate for and support the recently passed H.R. 647, the ABLE Act, for the important benefits it offers to the disabled, and because of the additional clarity and equity it will provide for employers dealing with the IRS.

Section 206 addresses an issue under current law and the interpretation of the IRS for employers that use the services of professional employer organizations (PEOs). For example, any PEO that qualifies as a statutory employer under the Internal Revenue Code is eligible to claim the Tip Tax Credit, instead of the restaurant for which the wait staff who directly perform the services and therefore earned the qualification for it.

Under this system, some PEOs claim the credit themselves as the statutory employer, others administer the credit for the restaurants which they serve, and some restaurants claim the credit directly—only to be challenged in IRS audits.

This provision of the ABLE Act provides important tax clarity for small businesses working with PEOs. I am pleased to have been able to help secure the passage of this legislation in the House of Representatives, and I urge its prompt consideration in the Senate.

HONORING UNDER SHERIFF
DERRICK CUBIT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable enforcement officer and community servant, Under Sheriff Derrick Cubit.

Derrick Cubit was born on a warm, sunny day of September 1, 1970 in Jackson, MS. As a youngster, he lived in Hazlehurst, Mississippi with his mother, Bobbie, his brother, Travis, and his late grandmother, Sarah.

Derrick Cubit started school when he was six-years-old. He went to kindergarten through fifth grades at Hazlehurst Elementary, attended Hazlehurst Middle School, and graduated from Hazlehurst High School in 1988. He continued his education by attending Hinds Community College and Jackson State University where he majored in Criminal Justice.

"Life has been a means of friends and family who you can trust and who trusts you," says Mr. Cubit. He is pretty happy with what life brings and is accustomed to being around primarily adults, those who he received wisdom from. He met lots of people who invested and took time with him, and helped him to excel at most of his many and various hobbies. He did well in school because of this and fortunately, self-awareness was something that was learned later on in his years.

Under Sheriff Cubit is a member of the Phi Beta Fraternity and of the Golden Square Lodge #88. There was always an interest in being a public servant, and he finally got an opportunity to work for the Copiah County Sheriff Department in October of 1997. He gives all thanks to the late Chief Deputy Joe L. Young, who gave him the opportunity to become a Deputy Sheriff with the Copiah County Sheriff Department. The trend was set by just meeting his potential, and taking on new challenges when someone brought it to his attention that he'd be perfect for the opportunity to work through the ranks at the Sheriff Department. He started out being a Deputy Sheriff, later was promoted to Juvenile Officer, after that he was promoted to Captain of Patrol, and now he serves as the Under Sheriff for the Copiah County Sheriff Department.

Under Sheriff Cubit always assumed he'd never get married because he was a hard worker and thought that if he was tied down by the constraints of a wife and kids his work might hinder family growth. But then, he met the beautiful Ms. Semekia Jones in 1994 and they agreed to marry in 2001. He had one son before this union and now his new family role suits him as being a father and husband. He's driven to spur his son on to even greater accomplishments.

Despite a lifetime of challenges and accomplishments Under Sheriff Cubit has held on to a quote by James Baldwin: "The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it as it was when you came in." His goal is to achieve what James Baldwin speaks about. Although he would question, "How?" he believes that the moment his son entered this world, he then knew that he had achieved it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Under Sheriff Derrick Cubit for his dedication to serving our great Country and his community.

DAVE CONNER TRIBUTE

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave Conner, who recently passed away after a long fight with cancer. Dave is survived by his wife Teri, son Gavin, and daughter Ashton.

Dave Conner dedicated his life to public service, serving for over thirty-two years in the state and Federal courts. And throughout that time, he served our state and country with both honor and integrity.

Dave's career as a public servant dates back to 1982, when he graduated law school and began working as a Deputy District Attorney in Denver. After six years, he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney. In 1996, he took a position as a public defender, and after four years in that capacity, he returned to the U.S. Attorney's office.

I have had the honor of meeting Dave and discussing possible ways we could curb the trend of mass shooting incidents that our nation, and Colorado, in particular, has experienced in recent years. Dave was dedicated to public safety and I found his insight and advice on gun violence to be very helpful as we discussed this extremely important issue.

An active member of the Smoky Hill United Methodist Church, Dave Connor was dedicated to his family and community and his life should serve as an example of the positive effect that dedicated public servants can have on those around them. My heartfelt prayers go out to his family, friends, and loved ones as they grieve the loss of a dedicated public servant and a great man.

ABD AL-BASET AZZOUZ

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to commend the recent intelligence partnership between the United States and the country of Turkey that led to the apprehension and eventual transfer into U.S. custody of a senior Al Qaeda operative, Abd al-Baset Azzouz.

The State Department of the United States listed Azzouz as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" pursuant to Executive Order 13224 on September 24, 2014. Additionally, the State Department states that Azzouz "has had a presence in Afghanistan, the United Kingdom, and Libya. He was sent to Libya in 2011 by al-Qa'ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri to build a fighting force there, and mobilized approximately 200 fighters. He is considered a key operative capable of training al-Qa'ida recruits in a variety of skills, such as IED construction."

I am encouraged by this positive development between Turkey and the United States and hope that this event indicates a growing partnership between our countries that will result in a common military strategy against hostile elements in Iraq and Syria. While no international relationship is perfect, there is already

a large amount of cooperation that exists between the U.S. and allies like Turkey and it is critical that we continue to grow our existing partnerships in this important region as well as forge new ones.

It is important that we recognize and commend this very positive incident of counterterrorism cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey, as well as do all that we can to encourage these efforts to continue.

Finally, I submit the recent articles from the Washington Post and International Business Times.

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 5, 2014]

SUSPECTED AL-QAEDA MEMBER HELD IN JORDAN AS U.S. INVESTIGATES POSSIBLE BENGHAZI LINK

(By Adam Goldman and Karen DeYoung)

A suspected member of al-Qaeda who had recently been designated a global terrorist by the United States has been detained in Jordan. The United States is also investigating whether he played a role in the September 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi. U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation, identified the man as Abd al-Baset Azzouz, a Libyan national. Details about his capture and what charges he could face in the United States remain unclear. Turkish news media reported that Azzouz was captured Nov. 13 in an operation in Yalova, which is about 100 miles south of Istanbul, and that he was later deported to Jordan.

Turkey's Daily Sabah newspaper said the CIA provided the tip that led to his arrest. The CIA declined to comment.

In recent years, the Obama administration has brought a number of alleged terrorists to this country after capture by the U.S. or through extradition. Azzouz has not been named in any public statements or reports about those sought in connection with the Benghazi attacks. Although the State Department designated Azzouz as a terrorist, it is not known if there are any criminal charges against him that would facilitate his extradition to the United States.

A likely venue for any criminal proceedings would be federal court in New York. FBI spokesman Peter Donald in New York declined to comment. One official stressed that U.S. intelligence was still examining whether Azzouz had a role in the Benghazi attacks that killed U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and three other Americans.

In September, the State Department designated Azzouz a global terrorist. The State Department said he has also lived in Afghanistan and Britain.

As part of the designation, the United States said Azzouz was sent home by al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2011 to build a fighting force in Libya, mobilizing about 200 fighters.

"He is considered a key operative capable of training al-Qaeda recruits in a variety of skills, such as IED [improvised explosive device] construction," according to the State Department.

Seth Jones, an analyst at the Rand Corp., said Azzouz probably has minimal information about where Zawahiri is hiding but could provide a clearer picture of the terrorist groups operating in Libya.

"He's got a lot of information that could be useful on how al-Qaeda is structured, its broader strategy and operations," he said.

Azzouz isn't the first known al-Qaeda operative suspected of going to Libya in recent years.

Officials said there was intelligence that Thirwat Shihata, an Egyptian who was

Zawahiri's deputy at one point, traveled to Libya after he was allowed to leave Iran, where he had been since 2003.

Azzouz lived in Britain and was known to police but left the country in 2009 for Pakistan and Afghanistan. Authorities in Britain had briefly detained Azzouz before letting him go, according to news reports.

[From International Business Times, Dec. 4, 2014]

AL QAEDA LEADER ABD AL-BASET AZZOUZ, ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN BENGHAZI ATTACK, REPORTEDLY AWAITING TRIAL IN US

(By Alessandra Masi)

A senior al Qaeda leader accused of participating in the attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya, was arrested in Turkey last month. The Libya-based terrorist leader was transferred to Jordan and subsequently to the U.S., where he is now awaiting trial, according to the Turkish Hurriyet Daily News.

A joint CIA and Turkish intelligence operation led to Abd al-Baset Azzouz's capture when he attempted to enter Turkey with a fake passport, according to a report from Turkish daily Milliyet. Azzouz is a senior member of al Qaeda's branch in Libya and allegedly had a role in the bombing that killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens and U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith on Sept. 11, 2012.

The CIA declined to comment on its alleged involvement in the operation and the Department of Defense did not immediately confirm Azzouz's continued presence in the U.S.

A man by that name was put on the U.S. State Department's Designated Terrorist List in September and described as a "key operative capable of training al Qaeda recruits in a variety of skills, such as IED [improvised explosive device] construction." Azzouz's name was also presented to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs last year on a list of people it did not "make sense to consider anything but 'core' al Qaeda members."

Azzouz was detained for nearly 10 months in the U.K. in 2006. Upon his release, he moved to Libya at the request of al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, according to Hurriyet. Al-Zawahiri reportedly sent him to Libya to open a training camp and recruit fighters, a move that "indicates that senior al Qaeda leaders trust him to carry out the strategic task of establishing an al Qaeda network in Libya," according to a 2012 report from the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress.

Libyan jihadist group Ansar al-Sharia has been widely held accountable for the deadly Benghazi attack, but the group said in a statement that it "didn't participate as a sole entity." Ansar al-Sharia has a strong presence in Benghazi and is "ideologically aligned" with al Qaeda, according to the State Department. The group also has a branch in the Libyan port city of Derna, where Azzouz allegedly set up his training camp.

Derna has long been a jihadist battleground and is home to several groups, including the Islamic Youth Shura Council, which recently pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MAYOR BRENDA LAWRENCE TO
THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Brenda Lawrence, Mayor of the City of Southfield, who will be leaving office at the end of this year to represent Michigan's 14th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

Mayor Brenda L. Lawrence is a long-time resident of the City of Southfield. A product of Michigan's public school system, Mayor Lawrence is an alumna of Pershing High School and received her BA in Public Administration from Central Michigan University.

Ms. Lawrence was elected Mayor of the City of Southfield in November of 2001. She is the first African American and first woman Mayor of Southfield, a city with a population of over 78,000 residents, a budget of \$143 million, and 833 employees. Mayor Lawrence is committed to diversity, fiscal responsibility, education, and keeping a clean and safe city.

Mayor Lawrence has been a community advocate for many years, both as an elected official and a private citizen. She has served on the Southfield City Council, where she was elected president in 1999. As a Councilwoman, Ms. Lawrence gained experience in managing a multi-million dollar budget and demonstrated fiscal responsibility. Ms. Lawrence has also served on the Southfield Public School Board of Education as President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Her love for community involvement has been evident through her previous service as a volunteer in various capacities on the Parent Youth Guidance Commission, Oakland County United Way Advisory Committee, and Oakland County AIDS Council.

Since becoming Mayor, Ms. Lawrence has initiated the following community programs: The Mayor's Walk community health program; Mayor's Roundtable—a citizen driven forum where residents can discuss one-on-one topics of concern; Southfield Reads!—a program designed to promote reading literacy in the City of Southfield; Annual Flower Day; City-wide Blood Drive; and Today's Woman—a cable show featuring respected women in and around Southfield. As a result of her initiative to create a more environmentally friendly community, Mayor Lawrence joined over 600 other Mayors in signing the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and with Council support has created the Southfield Green Committee.

Mayor Lawrence has received many honors for her leadership skills. She was recognized in October 2007 as one of Crain's "2007 Most Influential Women." She is the recipient of the "2004 Wand Award" for breaking new frontiers for women and minorities, the Jewish War Veterans-State of Michigan "Brotherhood Award," the Leadership Detroit "Challenging the Process" award, the ABWA Millennium Chapter "Woman of the Year Award," the Detroit Historical Society's "Enterprising Women" award, Leadership Oakland's 2004 Distinguished Leadership & Future Leaders Award for Exemplary Leadership, and the "Black Women Achiever Award." Mayor Lawrence